

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, On a national level, a response to the needs of persons with disabilities came on July 26, 1990, when the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law, this legislation was hailed as one of the most important steps taken to protect all citizens, as the ADA would guarantee people with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in every facet of life in their communities; and,

Whereas, All persons with disabilities have the right and the responsibility to be active, contributing members of society – the ADA was enacted to assure such rights and responsibilities to allow for the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities in our society; and,

Whereas, The enactment of the ADA opened windows of opportunity for people with disabilities and perhaps more importantly, opened the eyes of our nation to the needs of people with disabilities; and,

Whereas, South Dakota recognizes the need to further assure its policies, practices, support services, and new technologies allow all citizens – those with disabilities as well as those without disabilities – to enjoy the healthiest quality of life with confidence, independence, and hope for a brighter future; and,

Whereas, It is fitting that our state set aside a day on the 19th anniversary of the enactment of this landmark legislation to celebrate the contributions and achievements of persons with disabilities to our great society:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2009, as

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT DAY

in South Dakota, and I encourage all citizens to work together with others across our state and nation to promote equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for all people.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-ninth Day of June in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.



M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:



Chris Nelson, Secretary of State